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TODAY and TOMORROW

Stab In The Back Averted

PRETENDING to be friends but acting all the time as enemies, the alien Government of French Indo-China tried to play a meanest and most diabolical act of treachery against the Nippon authorities last week. But the latter were too shrewd for them, and too vigilant and watchful, with the result that the stab in the back which the recalcitrant French Government aimed at Nippon was averted in good time. Acting with prompt decision and characteristic swiftness and courage, the Imperial Nippon Forces disarmed the French Indo-China forces and the armed police forces, and took over control of all important establishments and facilities.

It will be recalled that the French Indo-China Government had concluded a Pact with Nippon on July 29, 2601, for the joint defence of the country against anti-Axis aggression. But since recently, the French Indo-China Government have been not only increasingly hostile to Nippon but actively aiding the enemy, and finally they even went to the extent of openly refusing to defend the country against the Anglo-Americans. The Nippon authorities were thus left with no alternative other than assuming on themselves the full and sole responsibility for the defence of Indo-China, and they assumed it for the sake of the people of Indo-China and for the common safety of Greater East Asia.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Imperial Nippon Government have made it clear that Nippon has no territorial designs whatever on Indo-China and that she is prepared to render all possible assistance to the inhabitants of Indo-China engaged in the defence of their homeland against the invaders of East Asia. Furthermore, Nippon has also promised to accord full support to the inhabitants of Indo-China to achieve their long-lost freedom and independence. Accordingly, the National Federation of Tonkin has been formed which has for its objects the independence of Indo-China and the defence of the country in whole-hearted co-operation with Nippon.

Thanks to Nippon's swift and courageous action, French Indo-China to-day is no longer French. It has already been rescued from the French yoke. French influence in Indo-China which dates from as far back as the year 2447 (1787) is to-day a thing of the past. Nippon's decision to defend Indo-China and help its inhabitants to achieve their national independence, is yet another concrete proof of the transparent sincerity of her war aims which are the liberation of East Asia from anti-Axis tyranny and oppression and the restoration of Asia to its ancient glory.

Enemy Forces In Montalban Sector Now Pushed Back

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Imperial Forces Occupy American Positions In Tough Fighting

Nippon Base in the Philippine Front, March 9 (Domei)—Fighting on the Luzon front centered in the Morong sector, east of Manila, where the Nippon forces were engaged in fierce hand-to-hand battle with the American forces which started to attack Imperial positions with trench-mortars on Tuesday. An enemy spearhead of some 400 troops persistently attempted to break through the Nippon defences but suffered heavily as Imperial troops launched frequent infiltration thrusts deep into enemy lines.

Meanwhile, the Nippon forces in the Montalban sector, north-east of Manila, on Tuesday seized part of the enemy positions and are now continuing fierce assaults with a view to wiping out the entire enemy forces in this sector.

The Nippon air force, in the meantime, has obtained sizeable war results during the week ending Tuesday in raids against enemy airbases and strategic points in the Philippines. Raiding Dulag on Leyte on Feb. 28, Imperial air units blasted three points and followed up their attack by bombing and blasting two runways at Tacloban airfield on the following day. Raiding enemy airbases on Luzon on Mar. 2, Nippon air units blasted American military facilities at Lingayen at three places and destroyed 30 enemy planes on the ground and set on fire five places in the raid on San Fabian.

On March 3 our air forces again bombed Dulag with brilliant war results. Raiding Clarke Field on Monday Imperial air units set on fire two places and scored direct hits on enemy barracks. The Clarke Field raid was followed up with an attack on San Fabian for the second time during the week when three planes were set ablaze on the ground and an ammunition dump blasted.

Attacking Palompon, on the western coast of Leyte on Tuesday, our air units blasted and set ablaze enemy military installations at several places. Only one Nippon plane failed to return from these attacks.

NO TERRITORIAL DESIGNS ON INDO-CHINA; IMPERIAL GOVT. ISSUES STATEMENT

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Nippon Ready To Render All Support To People To Build Up Free Nation

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Tokyo, March 11 (Domei)—A special Cabinet meeting was held at the Imperial Palace at 9 o'clock yesterday morning to deliberate on the course of action to be taken in coping with the present situation in French Indo-China. Government, after reaching a decision based on reports received from Indo-China, issued a statement at noon yesterday expressing the firm conviction of the Nippon Government regarding French Indo-China.

The statement said it goes without saying that the Nippon Government hold no territorial ambitions against French Indo-China. Instead, by wiping out hostile influence from F.I.C., the Nippon Government is now able to extend wholehearted co-operation to the people of F.I.C. who have been groaning for many years under foreign oppression. As soon as F.I.C. shows signs of rising into an independent state, the Nippon Government will assist that nation to attain its true racial independence, based on the principles enunciated in the Joint Declaration of Greater Asiatic Nations.

Tokyo, Mar. 10 (Domei)—Nippon forces were obliged to take measures to defend Indo-china singly against the enemy because of failure of the local French authorities to translate into action the spirit of common defence in the face of attacks upon Indo-China by America, Britain and others, a statement issued in French Indo-China declared. However, Nippon entertains no territorial designs on Indo-China and the Nippon Government is prepared to render all possible assistance to the inhabitants of Indo-China engaged in the defence of their homeland against invaders of East Asia, the statement said.

The statement follows:

In accordance with the agreement entered into with France, concerning the common defence of Indo-China, Nippon has consistently co-operated with the French civil and military authorities in Indo-China for the defence of this region. More recently, however, with the development of the war situation, a gradual change has taken place in the attitude of the local French authorities so that they have come to fail to translate into action the spirit of common defence in the face of attacks upon Indo-China by America, Britain and others.

The Nippon representative has from time to time urged reconsideration upon them, but to no avail, so that Nippon forces now find themselves obliged to defend Indo-China singly against the enemy who is pressing close upon the region. It means that for the defence of Indo-China, Nippon forces have resolved to attain their objective by rejecting those who are of enemy character, but by extending assistance to such local authorities as will co-operate with Nippon. The above is a measure Nippon, much against her desire, has been compelled to adopt by military necessity, and its application shall be limited to a minimum extent.

It goes without saying that regarding Indo-China, Nippon entertains no territorial designs and the Nippon Government desires to declare that it is prepared to render all possible assistance to the inhabitants of Indo-China engaged in the defence of their homeland against the invaders of Eastern Asia, and that in consonance with the principles of the Greater East Asia Joint Declaration, full support shall be accorded to their long-suppressed aspiration to achieve national independence.

Thailand Agrees To Three-Point Proposals Made By Nippon Govt.

Bangkok, March 10 (Domei)—Three-point proposals of the Nippon Government to Thailand on measures to cope with the new situation in French Indo-China have been accepted by Premier Major Khuang Aphaiwong and Foreign Minister Sri Sen Sombat Siri last night in conference with Kumaichi Yamamoto, Nippon Ambassador.

The three points are: firstly, to disarm every French troop and policeman who seeks refuge in Thailand from Indo-China; secondly, to treat French diplomats and residents in Thailand in the same way as French nationals in Nippon are treated; and thirdly, to promote exchange of goods between French Indo-China and Thailand in future.

Explaining the reasons for the steps taken by Nippon forces in Indo-China, Mr Yamamoto stated the latest developments in Indo-China should not affect the close co-operation between Nippon and Thailand in the slightest way, and that it is the policy of the Nippon Government further to strengthen ties with Thailand on the basis of the Nippon-Thailand Alliance. Premier Aphaiwong and Foreign Minister Siri warmly concurred with Mr. Yamamoto's views and stated the Thai Government wholeheartedly is agreed to the three-point proposals of the Nippon Government.

Govt. Of India Again Defeated On Cut Motions

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Central Assembly Refuses All Grants To Govt's Supply Department

Two more defeats were inflicted on the tottering British Raj on Saturday in the Central Indian Assembly, according to reports received here from New Delhi. When the Central Assembly resumed voting on the Budget, the Muslim League Party moved two cut motions both of which were carried by huge majority, the Congress, the Muslim League and all other Parties jointly voting against the Government, as usual.

The first cut motion, moved by Mr. Issac Said, the Chief Whip of the Muslim League Party, was in respect of the grant under the heading "Planning Department." Nawabzada Liaqat Ali Khan of the Muslim League, and Srijut Bhulabhai Desai, Leader of the Congress Party, speaking on the cut motion, contended that the British government in India, constituted as it is at present, is not competent to plan for the future economic development of the country.

Continuing, the Opposition leaders declared that any proper planning for future India can only be done by a truly National Government which is independent and free to act in the interests of the people. The economic planning as envisaged by the present British authorities will only perpetuate India's economic slavery to Britain, stated the Party leaders.

Replying to the debate, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, the so-called Member for Planning, made an academic speech on the benefits of economic planning, but deliberately left out the main points in dispute. The motion, when finally put to vote, was carried by a large majority.

The second cut motion, was also moved by a member of the Muslim League Party, Mr Yussof Haroon. It opposed all grants to the Supply Department. Supporting the motion, Sri Prakash of the Congress Party, and others, characterised the Supply Department as an engine of exploitation which has caused the greatest misery and hardships to the masses. They also complained of highhandedness and corruption rampant among the Supply Department officials. This motion was also passed by a large majority.

Bloody Battle Raging On Iwoojima War Sector

A Nippon Base in the Central Pacific. March 10 (Domei)—Fierce fighting raged unabated all day long yesterday on Iwoojima in the wake of enemy attacks on main Nippon positions in the northern section of the island on Thursday, the day before. Enemy carrier-borne bombers in concert with cruisers and destroyers on Thursday evening commenced bombing and shelling attacks against Nippon main positions in the northern part of the island, and from early yesterday morning powerful enemy forces with the support of trenchmortar fire and aerial bombing and strafing attacks attempted to infiltrate into Nippon positions.

With the penetration of part of enemy infiltration forces into Nippon main lines a sanguinary battle raged. In complete defiance of enemy trenchmortar fire, flamethrowers and enemy aircraft, Nippon garrison units are putting up bitter resistance in defence of their positions.

In the Mount Tamana sector reinforced enemy troops gained some ground, and on Thursday the fighting lines between opposing forces were only 100 metres apart. Nippon defenders caused heavy casualties to the enemy through their accurate sniping as well as daring thrusts into enemy lines.

Iwoojima Civilians Organise Shock Troops

A Nippon Base in the Central Pacific, March 8 (Domei)—A large number of Chosenese non-combatants who have been working for the army in defence and construction work on Iwoojima are now engaged in terrific hand-to-hand fighting with the Americans in the Motoyama sector.

With the situation mounting in intensity on Iwoojima, these Chosenese have voluntarily taken up arms. They have organized themselves into death-defying shock troops and are now fighting furiously beside Nippon soldiers.

823,632 U.S. Casualties Since Beginning Of War

Lisbon, March 8 (Domei)—United States Army and Navy casualties since the beginning of the war were today announced by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson as totalling 823,632—an increase of 10,600 over last week's figure, according to a Washington report. He further revealed that 732,922 were army casualty through Feb. 8, while the latest navy casualty figure totalled 90,710.

The United States Army is so far said to have lost 142,285 killed, and the Navy 34,513.

Sinking Of U.S. Liberty Ship Now Admitted

Lisbon, March 7 (Domei)—The American War Shipping Administration today admitted the loss of the American Liberty ship "William S. Ladd" a few weeks ago in Leyte Gulf as the result of Nipponese aerial action, according to a Washington dispatch.

Fires started by Nipponese bombs ended in the foundering of the freighter, and six members of the crew were sent to hospital for injuries, it stated.

Russians Driven Back In Lake Balaton Sector

Berlin, Mar. 9 (Domei)—The German High Command announced that several German combat groups both sides of Lake Balaton in Hungary, after breaking through into the main battle area of the Soviets, drove the Red forces out of several strongly fortified sections of the front. Although the Soviets brought up further reinforcements and launched fierce counter-attacks the Germans were able to hold their newly acquired ground. In the Slovakian mountains, the communique disclosed, German rearguards in tenacious defensive operations are holding the narrow valleys around Altsohl against incessant enemy pressure.

On both sides of Tatra reconnaissance thrusts of the Soviets were smashed. Grenadiers and Chasseurs north of Ratibor advanced into enemy reserve positions, despite stiff Soviet resistance. General reports said the German defenders of Kuestrin repulsed 17 Soviet attacks supported by numerous air assaults launched previously.

Red formations which tried to attack the town from the north were reported to have been thrown back to their former lines. Another Soviet formation, however, succeeded in pushing forward from the north-west to the rim of the town. After bringing up reserves the German forces supported by assault batteries scattered Red formations, part of which withdrew to the outskirts of the town. Caught in German fire, this Soviet formation was cut off from its rear communication line.

Incessantly strong attacks by Soviet armies broke down at the outer defence zone of the bridgehead of Stettin in heavy fighting in which the Soviets suffered considerable losses. In Courland, east of Frauenburg, German units engaged in successful defensive battle against breakthrough attempts of Soviet forces supported by strong battle formations.

On the Lower Rhine Reich troops yesterday repelled strong enemy attacks in the Zinten area. On other fronts of the bridgehead of Westel the enemy made but slight territorial gains at the cost of numerous tanks.

Hamburg and Cassel were targets of British terror attacks during the night. German retaliation fire on London is being continued.

Disarmament Of French Indochina Forces Complete

Saigon, March 10 (Domei)—The disarmament of French Indo-China forces and armed police force was quickly completed by midnight last night within two hours after the Nippon forces started action, with the peaceful surrendering of arms in compliance with the Nippon orders.

While the disarmament was proceeding amidst a downpour, the Nippon forces took over all important establishments in Saigon. The Fifth Artillery Regiment and Annam Fusiliers Regiment which at first refused to comply with the disarmament order, quickly gave up all attempts at resistance, turning their arms over to the Nippon troops in line with the action taken by the rest of the French forces.

Imperial forces took action to assume the duty of defending French Indo-China on their own responsibility at 10.40 last night following the flat refusal by the French Indo-China authorities of the considered Nippon request regarding the defence of French Indo-China. Establishments and facilities taken over last night include the official residence of the Governor-General, electric power station, radio broadcasting station, railroad station, post office, police stations, Bank of Indo-China and wharves. By taking over the Governor-General's official residence, the Nippon forces took prompt measures to safeguard the safety of Governor-General Vice-Admiral Jean Decoux. By midnight complete quiet reigned.

Cholon district was also restored to complete normalcy in about two hours after the Nippon forces took action.

Laurel Determined To Work For Nation's Cause

Tokyo, March 8 (Domei)—President Jose P. Laurel is determined to stay in the Philippines and continue his work for the complete freedom and independence of his homeland from American imperialism, Nariyoshi Tajiri, Nippon Minister to the Philippines, this afternoon declared in a press interview.

Minister Tajiri who was dispatched to the Philippines in may last year to assist Ambassador Shozo Murata, returned here on official business on Tuesday. He revealed that the removal of the Philippine Government from Manila on December 22 was decided on in view of the fact that the capital would be difficult to defend, with the approval of Laurel and the cabinet, and nearly all important men together with Laurel and their families evacuated the city.

Regarding Nippon residents he stated that most of the women, children and aged residing in Manila had been evacuated to their homeland, while adult men have entered military service or engaging in duties co-operating with the Nippon forces.

He stated that there is a powerful Philippine force headed by General Artemio Ricarte which, with the spirit of self-sacrifice, is unreservedly co-operating with the Nippon forces and under heavy shelling and bombing by the enemy invaders, is carrying on activities which have won high praise and gratitude.

National Govt. Army's Co-operation Assured

Nanking, March 10 (Domei)—The strong determination of the army of the National Government of China to fight in concert with Nippon for the defence of East Asia and realization of the principle of Greater East Asia advocated by the late Dr. Sun Yat-sen was voiced by General Hsiao Shuh-suan, new War Minister of the National Government, in a statement yesterday on the eve of the 40th Army Day in Nippon.

Expressing firm conviction in final victory for Greater East Asia, he declared, "I firmly believe the Nippon forces will successfully defend the Empire of Nippon and further accomplish the sacred mission of defending and emancipating Greater East Asia". Stressing that the ideal of the races of East Asia should be to live and die together, he urged that the officers and men of the Chinese Army should with great zeal and enthusiasm, unreservedly cooperate with the Nippon army, sharing the lofty mission of defending Greater East Asia from Anglo-American aggression.

65 Raiders Downed & Damaged Over Tokyo

Tokyo, March 10 (Domei)—At least 15 B 29's are so far known to have been shot down and about 50 others heavily damaged by our interception units during the enemy raid on Tokyo in the small hours of this morning, Dai Honyei announced in a communique released at noon today.

The communique reads: "Between shortly past midnight and 12.40 a.m. March 10 about 130 B-29's raided the Metropolis with their main strength blind bombing the city quarters. As a result of this enemy blind bombing fires broke out at various places within the city. The fire that broke out in the Bureau of Imperial Mews of the Ministry of the Imperial Household was extinguished by 2.35 a.m. while other fires were also put under control by about 8 a.m.

"Our war results so far made known are as follows: Shot down 15 planes and damaged about 50 others."

$1,500,000 Collected For City Relief Work

Syonan, March 10 (Domei)—A sum of $1,500,000 has been collected by members of the Auxiliary Police Association for relief work in this city during any period of emergency, chairman of the Association, Yeo Chiang-swee, announced at the New World Amusement Park yesterday when several thousands of members of the Auxiliary Police and other branches of this island's passive defence organizations were entertained.

A similar function was held at the Great World, both comfort evenings being sponsored by the A.P.A. which conducted an island-wide drive during the past week to collect funds to be used in appropriate manner for relief work during any period of emergency.

Present at the New World function were Mr. S. Ogata, Inspector-General of Police, Messrs Yeo Chiang-swee, Yee Cheok-wah, S.M.A.H. Chishty, Balbir Singh and other representatives from the Police Bureau and the A.P.A.

Hurley & Wedemeyer Confer With Roosevelt

Lisbon, March 8 (Domei)—Major-General Patrick Hurley, American Ambassador to Chungking, and Lieut.-General Albert Wedemeyer, Commander-in-Chief of the American Forces in China, who arrived in Washington a few days ago, today conferred with American President Roosevelt at the White House for 30 minutes, according to a Washington dispatch.

Emerging from the talks, Hurley briefly told waiting pressmen that he had made just a preliminary report, while Wedemeyer said he intended to hold consultations with members of the State Department and other department officials as well as those connected with the American Forces in China.

Fierce Fighting Raging In Meiktila Sector

A Nippon Base in Central Burma, Mar. 10 (Domei)—Nippon forces at dusk on Mar. 8 counter-attacked an enemy unit at a point off the Mandalay-Rangoon Road in the Meiktila area, and knocked out or set ablaze nine medium-type tanks, one light tank, and seven large type carriers and motor lorries.

In a determined attempt to effect a break-through southward, the enemy on Mar. 9 again attempted to smash southward with 15 tanks. Fierce fighting is now raging between the opposing forces.

Buddhist Priests To Intensify War Effort

Rangoon, March 9 (Domei)—To commemorate the third anniversary of the entry of the Nippon forces into Rangoon, a mass rally of Buddhist priests of all nationalities, includng those of Nippon, China, Thailand, Ceylon and India, was held this afternoon at the north-west pavilion of the Shwedagon Pagoda. Reverend Taungbaw Sayadaw, Bishop of the pagoda, presided over the meeting.

Following a speech by Bandoola U Sein, Minister of Public Welfare and Religion, expressing gratitude for Nippon's tremendous effort in bringing about the liberation of Burma and appealing for greater effort to fight the war right through to victory, Reverend U Ottama, High Priest, moved a resolution pledging co-operation and intensification of the war effort on the part of Buddhist priests in Burma.

The motion was seconded by representatives of various nations and unanimously adopted by over 2,000 priests who attended the meeting. Nippon, Chinese, Thai, Ceylonese and Indian representatives in seconding the motion all stressed the paramount importance of defending Burma's independence and religion.

National Federation Of Tonkin To Be Organised

Hanoi, March 9 (Domei)—Following a meeting of representatives of various Nippon independence party organizations in Tonkin Province held here, it was decided to establish an association to be provisionally known as the National Federation of Tonkin which has for its objective Indo-china's independence and co-operation with Nippon. This Federation which will work for the liberation of Indo-china, will consist of 12 executive and 12 advisory committee members.

American War Vessels Sink Own Torpedo Boats

Lisbon, March 10 (Domei)—Two United States motor torpedo-boats recently were sunk by American war-vessels owing to a "mistake," and casualties were caused, according to a Washington dispatch.

American naval authorities, it is recalled, only recently disclosed that an American mine-sweeper had been sunk in the Pacific as the result of an error.

DEATH

The death occurred, after a brief illness, of Mr. U. S. de Silva, aged 58 years, on Sunday at 5.30 a.m. at his residence No. 106 Orchard Road. The deceased, a nephew of the late Mudaliyar B. P. de Silva, has been well known in the jewellery trade for over 45 years. He leaves behind his beloved wife, seven children, and a host of relatives and friends in Ceylon and Malai to mourn his loss. The cortege left No. 106 Orchard Road at 10 o'clock this morning and the cremation took place at the Buddhist Cemetery at Bidadari.

I congratulate my friend Mr. M. P. Mohamed Ibrahim who got married on the 11th inst. and wish him and his bride all happiness in their married life.

K. V. DEVAN.

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